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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

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WEATHER FORECAST
OVERCAST.
Barometer 30.22.

February 14, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 54 2 p.m. 60
Humidity 78 65

February 14, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 51 2 p.m. 59
Humidity 53 59

7586 日三廿月一

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1917.

三拜禮 號四十月二英港香

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TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph."]

GERMANY AND AMERICA.

Attempts to Browbeat the U. S. Ambassador.

London, February 13.

The combination of trickery, arrogance and panic characterising Germany's attitude to the United States is revealed in despatches from American correspondents freed from the trammels of the German censorship on arrival in Denmark and Switzerland from Berlin.

It appears that extraordinary precautions were taken to conceal the decision of unrestricted submarine warfare which was taken at a Grand Anglo-German Conference at the German Headquarters on the Kaiser's birthday. Even Herr Zimmerman, the Foreign Minister, did not give any hint when he saw Mr. Gerard on the eve of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's announcement of January 31. The surprise was effectual, but to none more than the Germans, who were absolutely dismayed at the promptness of President Wilson's rupture of diplomatic relations.

Then followed an amazing attempt to browbeat Mr. Gerard into signing a revised version of the Prusso-American Treaty of 1795, with a view to securing the inviolability of German property in the United States in the event of war. When Mr. Gerard refused, Count Montgelas, on behalf of the Foreign Office, threatened to detain Americans in Germany. Mr. Gerard's reply that he would not be sand-bagged led to an abandonment of the attempt to hold him and other Americans as hostages.

The next movement was to offer to negotiate through the Swiss Minister, with the result enabled on February 13, which was bound to precipitate a climb-down by Germany or war.

How much Germany dreads American intervention, despite her bluster, appears in a statement attributed to the Foreign Minister, of January 30, that if the United States gave Germany a free hand the war would end in a few months.

More German Lying.

London, February 13.

The mystery of Germany's offer to negotiate with the United States to prevent war, cabled on February 10 and 12, is heightened by a German official telegram characterising the report as a "complete invention," but it is cleared up by Reuter's correspondent at Washington, who says a State Department announcement shows that Berlin is again lying.

The announcement says that the Swiss Minister on Saturday afternoon orally suggested that Germany would be willing to negotiate, provided the commercial blockade against England was not interfered with. Mr. Lansing requested that the suggestion be made in writing, and the Swiss Minister on Sunday night accordingly presented the following communication:—"The Swiss Government is requested by the German Government to say that the latter now, as before, is willing to negotiate, formally or informally, with the United States, provided the commercial blockade against England is not broken thereby."

Mr. Lansing replied in the following terms on Monday:—"I am requested by President Wilson to say that the Government of the United States will gladly discuss with the German Government any questions it might propose for discussion if it withdraws any proclamation of January 31, in which it suddenly, and without any previous intimation of any kind, cancelled the assurances of May 4 last year. But it does not feel it can enter into any discussion with the German Government concerning the policy of submarine warfare against neutrals which it is now pursuing, unless and until the German Government renounces its assurances of May 4 last year, and acts upon that assurance."

German Conditions Make Relief Work Impossible.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at New York says it is officially announced that the Americans are withdrawing from relief work in Belgium and Northern France, as the German conditions for a continuance of the work are impossible.

The President of the Relief Commission states that six weeks food supplies are stored in Belgium. Belgian officials will be authorized to distribute, pending the reorganisation of the relief work.

Germany Detains "Yarrowdale" Americans.

London, February 13.

A message from Washington says the Swiss Minister, who is acting for Germany in America, has informed the State Department that Germany will hold the Americans from the steamer Yarrowdale as prisoners until assured that German crews in the United States will not be made prisoners.

Proposed American Facilities for Allied Warships.

London, February 14.

Reuter's correspondent at Washington states that the Acting President of the Senate has introduced a Bill which, if enacted, will open United States ports to Allied warships conveying merchantmen against submarines, and will enable such warships to patrol the waters against German raiders.

The introducer of the Bill was not willing to say if it had the support of the Government, but he understood that it might be acceptable to it.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

Austrians Bomb a Hospital Train.

London, February 13.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Rome, Italian aeroplanes bombed the arsenal and ships in the harbour at Pola and returned safely.

An enemy air squadron bombed a hospital train at Brindisi on February 6. Red Cross workers and civilians being wounded.

TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph."]

THE NEW FRIGHTFULNESS.

Counter-Measures Already Effective.

London, February 13.

Is the House of Lords, Lord Lytton said that although the new phase of submarine warfare was not yet a fortnight old, the counter-measures provided had already achieved most considerable success. Lord Curzon reiterated that Admiral Jellicoe was not dissatisfied with the past fortnight's operations in this respect.

Lord Curzon added that the gross tonnage before the war of vessels exceeding 1,600 tons was 80,850,000. On January 31, the reduction was between five and six per cent. thereof. Admiral Jellicoe was not dissatisfied with the number of German submarines operating during the past fortnight which would never return to their own shores. New devices were still being invented and applied.

Lord Beresford declared that he was confident we should have submarine really in hand in six weeks or so.

Lord Lytton, for the Admiralty, said every device of human ingenuity was being employed most energetically against submarines. The Admiralty was confident that we could continue not merely to furnish our armies with munitions and supplies, and carry out our obligations to the Allies, but also to keep free certain routes for neutral commerce and obtain the necessary supplies for our own people.

BRITISH SNOW-SHIRT ATTACKS.

Tommies in Ladies' Nightwear!

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, describing the snow-shirt attacks mentioned in a German communiqué, says that the Canadians startled the ladies in the milliners' shops in a village by demanding a hundred ladies' night-shirts of the largest size. There were shouts of laughter in the Canadian trenches when the night-shirts were doled out over the khaki and tied up with blue ribbon. The party went out in the moonlight in the snow, with rifles and bombs, cleared the dug-outs and brought back prisoners.

Similarly the Gordon Highlanders sallied out in white smocks and white painted helmets and destroyed German outposts. They blew up a nest of dug-outs and captured prisoners.

YORKSHIRE MUNITIONS FACTORY EXPLOSION.

All Employees Believed to Have Escaped.

London, February 13.

The Press Bureau announces that an explosion, preceded by a fire, occurred at a munitions factory in Yorkshire in the morning. It is believed that all the employees escaped.

Some damage was done in the neighbourhood, and there are possibly some casualties, but as yet they are unknown.

THE RUMANIAN OPERATIONS.

London, February 13.

A Russian wireless official message says:—"English armoured cars twice advanced in the region south of the Sereth and bombarded the enemy's positions."

London, February 13.

A German wireless official message says:—"We repulsed two Russian attacks on the Upper Sereth. We stormed a fortified position to the south of the Valeputna road. We stormed an Italian hill position in the Coras salient."

ANOTHER LINER TORPEDOED.

Loss of the White Star "Afric."

London, February 13.

The White Star liner, Afric, of 12,000 tons, has been torpedoed. Seventeen of the crew are missing and five were killed. [The Afric was a twin-screw liner, built in 1899. Her dimensions were:—Length, 590 feet; breadth, 63 feet; depth, 21 feet. She had a speed of 12½ knots.]

GERMAN THREAT TO NEUTRALS.

Big Concentration on the Dutch Frontier.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at New York quotes the Associated Press representative in Berlin to the effect that five German Army Corps were concentrated on the Dutch frontier when ruthless submarine warfare began, while other neutrals whom President Wilson invited to join America were indirectly reminded of the fate of Belgium and Serbia.

THE ADVANCE ON KUT.

Enemy Completely Hemmed In.

London, February 13.

A Mesopotamia official message says:—"We directly hit the enemy bridge at Shumran and sank some shipping."

We resumed the advance on Sunday on the right bank of the Tigris and drove back the enemy to the first line of trenches at the Dahr band, to the west of Kut, where we established our line in the evening across the head from bank to bank on a frontage of 5,500 yards completely hemming in the enemy.

TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph."]

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN GERMANY.

Two Ammunition Factories Destroyed.

London, February 12.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Copenhagen, the Hamburger Nachrichten announces that there was a terrible explosion near Hamburg when two large ammunition factories were destroyed. Sixty-three were killed and sixty-three injured.

INTERNED ALIENS TO BE EMPLOYED.

London, February 13.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Hope intimated that the interned aliens would be employed in agriculture and other work of national importance—(Cheers). Compulsion would not be applied to civilian prisoners.

COLONIAL OFFICIALS HONOURED.

London, February 13.

Companionships of the order of St. Michael and St. George have been bestowed upon Mr. F. W. Major, Chief of the Customs in East Africa, and Mr. Frederick Spire, Provincial Commissioner of Uganda.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, February 13.

A German wireless official message says:—"Numerous enemy reconnoitring advances between Ypres and Arras failed."

[In the event of telegrams arriving too late for insertion on this page they will be found on an Extra.]

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

GERMANY'S UNFORTUNATE SUGGESTION.

London, February 13.

According to the Press Bureau, the Foreign Office states that in pursuance of the arrangement for the exchange of British and German incapacitated prisoners of war by means of a British hospital ship to and from Holland preparations were made to carry out the exchange. On the 7th inst., Germany telegraphed, through the American Embassy, prior to America breaking off relations, that the departure of the hospital ship with severely wounded Germans was no longer considered safe, and suggested the transportation of the wounded to and from England by Dutch paddle steamers, which would be guaranteed safe conduct by Germany. The transport of the severely wounded English would be suspended until Britain's reply had been received. Future repatriations including German and English civil prisoners would afterwards be effected in the same manner.

The Foreign Office adds that comment on such communications seems superfluous.

AMERICA THANKED.

London, February 13.

Mr. Balfour has sent a letter to Mr. Page, the American Ambassador, thanking America for her solicitude towards British subjects in Germany, especially prisoners of war.

GERMANY'S OFFER TO AMERICA.

Washington, February 13.

It is confirmed that Germany offered on February 11 to negotiate with the United States regarding the submarine warfare provided that "the commercial blockade against England was not interfered with."

Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State, replies that the United States would gladly discuss the question provided that Germany withdrew the proclamation of January 31; but states that she cannot discuss the question of the submarine warfare until Germany renounces the assurances of May 4 which she made after the torpedoing of the "Sussex."

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

London, February 13.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Hope, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that the Government had made the strongest possible representations to Turkey with a view to obtaining permission for the representatives of the United States to visit British war prisoners. Their efforts had so far been unsuccessful, but would be continued. The Government had been informed from various sources that the condition of the officers was tolerable, but that of the other ranks was generally deplorable.

S.W. AFRICAN TROUBLE SUPPRESSED.

Cape Town, February 13.

It is officially announced that a small Union expedition routed the followers of a turbulent native chief named Mandume at Oramboland, German South-West Africa, on February 6, killing forty including Mandume. Of the Union soldiers, nine were killed and eleven injured. No further trouble is anticipated.

TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph."]

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, February 13.

Silver is quoted at 33.1-16; competitive buying; market firm.

"FIRST BLOOD."

An Advantage in War.

At the 59th annual dinner of the Savage Club, Sir William Robertson, replying for the Army, said human nature was the most predominant factor in war; it came up against one at every turn—decision and indecision, courage and timidity, cheerfulness and pessimism. As regarded the war although he quite freely admitted that they might still have a long way to go, and must be prepared to do so—as he believed they were (cheers)—yet they were getting on as well as could be expected, having regard to the bad start they had had. It was common knowledge that they had been utterly unprepared for this great war, and it was also common knowledge that in war the belligerent who got the upper hand at the start and won first blood gained a very great advantage, and one of which it was exceedingly difficult to deprive him afterwards. That was the history of all wars, and in most cases the man who got the best of the start kept it to the end; but, fortunately, there were a good many exceptions, and they were justified in hoping that there would be an exception in the present case. (Cheers.)

When he said that they had not been prepared for war he was not thinking only of the Army. It was certainly a great defect that we had at the time such a small Army; fortunately, it was very good, but it was very small. That, however, was not the only one did he think it was the chief defect. They must, therefore, have patience, and be prepared to pay the penalty of their shortcomings. The Empire had risen to the occasion, and was determined to pay that penalty and to see the thing through. (Cheers). That was the greatest asset they could possibly have in war, for they could not successfully prosecute war unless they had behind it proper support. It was a most valuable assistance to the men at the front to know that they had that support. When they were inclined to be a little discouraged let them look at the other side of the picture. (Cheers). It was of no use grumbling and thinking they never did right. The Army was improving in strength and efficiency every day, and its loyalty, fortitude and readiness to make the greatest sacrifices were known to all of them. (Cheers.)

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Rijon Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Rijon Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

Saturday, February 17.
Hongkong Hotel.—Shareholders meeting at noon.

Saturday, February 24.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.—Shareholders meeting at noon.

Monday, February 26.
Race Meeting.—First Day.

Tuesday, February 27.
Race Meeting.—Second Day.

Wednesday, February 28.
Race Meeting.—Third Day.

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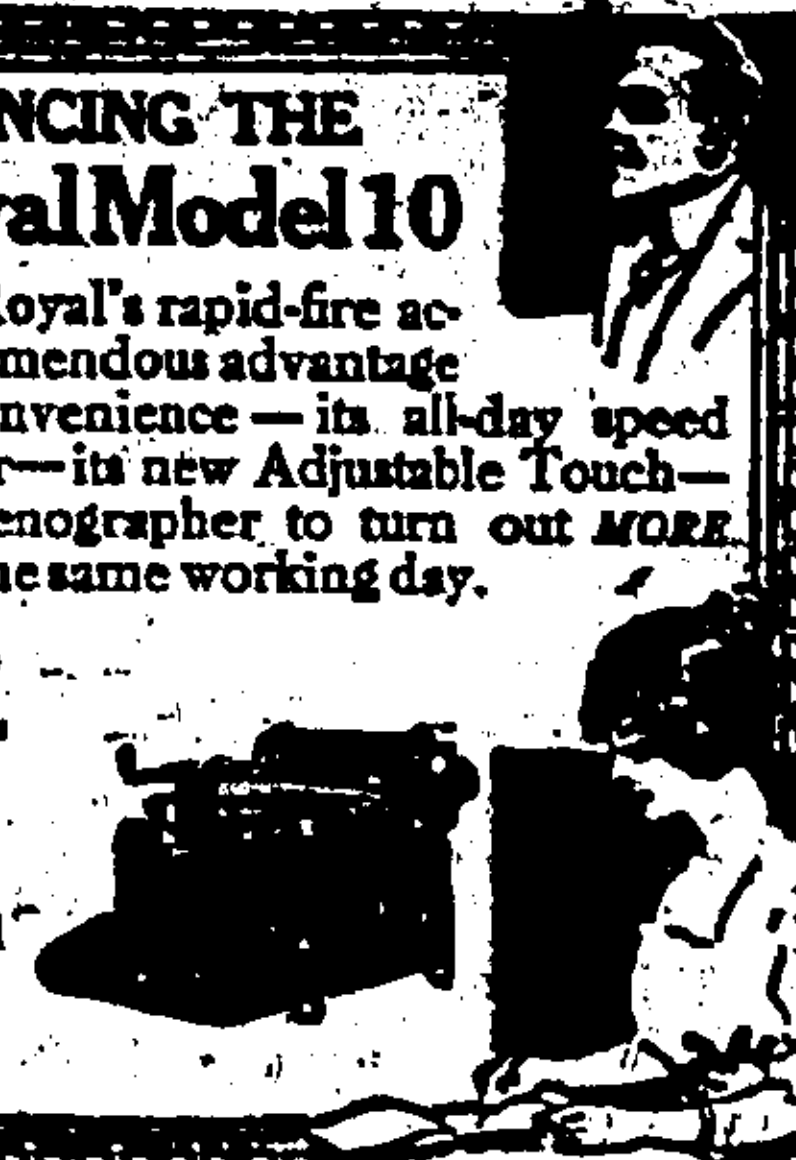
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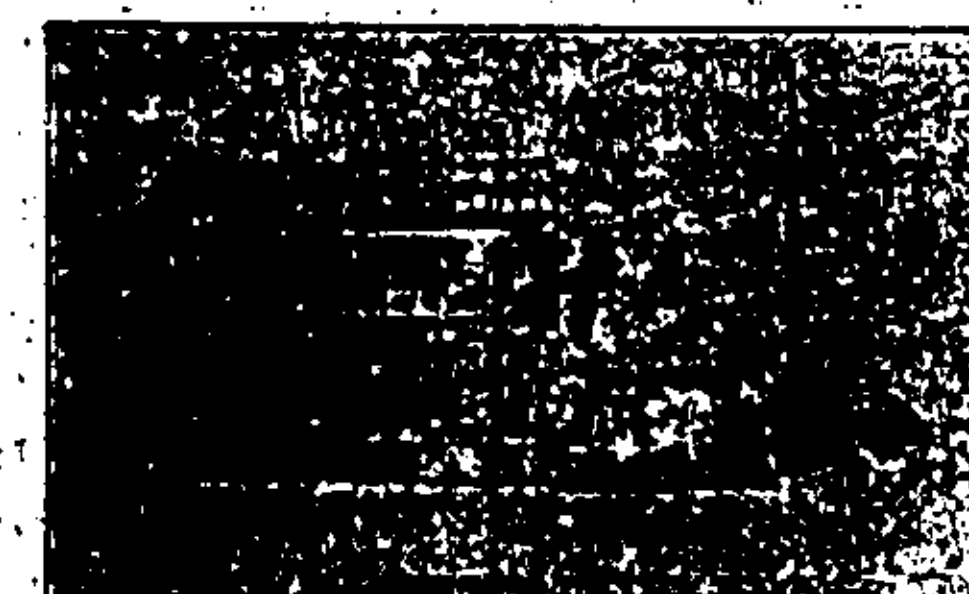
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GENERAL NEWS.

The Upper Yangtze.—Improvement of Navigation.
Peking, 5th February.—According to the Chinese papers, the Government has approved the proposal to improve the waterways in the region of Ichang, Chungking and other parts of the Upper Yangtze in order to facilitate navigation.

Transfers of Chinese Troops.
Peking, 5th February.—The Government, some time ago, decided to transfer the 8th Division under General Li Chang-tai, which is at present stationed at Machang, to Shanghai, to replace the 4th Division, which was transferred to Hangchow. Now, however, General Li Chang-tai, in view of the strong opposition to the entrance of Northern troops into Chekiang, has signified his unwillingness to go to Shanghai.

The Biggest Exporter.
From the United States in 1916 manufactures were exported to a value greater than the value of manufactures exported from any other country in any year, according to a compilation issued by the National City Bank (New York), which showed that the year's total exceeded £3,600,000,000, as against £2,012,000,000, the highest export record ever made by Great Britain, formerly the world's largest exporter of manufactures. England's record was made in 1913, the year immediately preceding the war. Prior to the war the United States held third rank.

The Quadruple Bankers' Group.
Peking, February 5.—The quadruple group of bankers held a meeting in London on January 30. Nothing official concerning the result has been published up to the present, but according to the Shantung Chia-poo four resolutions were adopted, namely: that the amount of the Loan shall be between ten and twenty million pounds; that the security shall be first the Salt Gabelle and secondly the Land-tax; that after the conclusion of the Loan the Chinese Government shall employ foreigners in its Financial Administration; and, finally, that the Loan shall be floated in Japan and America. The paper adds that the American bankers will be admitted to the Group. In this connection, however, it seems probable that the latest developments in Europe and America will effect any decisions reached by the bankers.

Baron Hayashi.
Tientsin, February 5.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister to Peking, arrived at Tientsin on the evening of February 3 and was enthusiastically received by the officials and the people of China and Japan at Tientsin. On the 4th he attended a very cordial dinner given by General Chang Hui-tee, the Military Governor of Shantung, and exchanged views freely, and General Chang expressed his deep thanks for the assistance given him by the Japanese officials, who have been quite impartial about the solution of the measures to deal with the people's armies in Shantung. Baron Hayashi also attended the banquet given by the Japanese Consul at Tientsin in the same evening and exchanged very cordial greetings with the leading Chinese and Japanese who attended.

From Poverty to Wealth.
Mr. Thomas Cochran, president of the Liberty National Bank of New York, who arrived there from St. Paul, virtually penniless, sixteen years ago, became a partner in the firm of Messrs. J.P. Morgan and Co. on January 1. In a search for "promising young men," Mr. Henry P. Davison "discovered" Mr. Cochran, and selected him together with Mr. Seward Prosser, now president of the Bankers Trust Company, to aid him in a plan to reorganise the Astor Trust Company. Mr. Davison became chairman of the executive committee of the Astor Trust Company, and Mr. Cochran was made vice-president. His rise in financial circles was rapid after that. Mr. Cochran, who is forty-six years old, is the youngest of the twelve partners in the firm of J.P. Morgan and Co.

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All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

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BIRTHS.

RAWORTH.—At No. 11, The Peak, on February 13th, wife of A. Basil Raworth of a son, (John Smith).

MORRISON.—On 13th February, at "Lauriston," to Mr. and Mrs. K. S. Morrison, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BRANCH-SCHMIDT.—At St. John's Cathedral by the Rev. H. Copley Moyle, on February 14, B.R. Branch to Henrietta A. Schmidt.

MAZE-BULLMORE.—On the 12th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Bishop of Victoria, assisted by the Rev. Copley Moyle, Frederic W. Maze, Commissioner of Customs, Tientsin, to Laura J. Bullmore, youngest daughter of the late Edward A. Bullmore, formerly of "Oakwood" Station and Rockton House, Ipswich, Queensland.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1917.

EDUCATION AFTER THE WAR.

There is scarcely a single sphere of activity left untouched in the discussions which are continually taking place concerning after-war problems. On the commercial and economic sides, there have been no end of suggestions put forward, and these, we may presume, will all receive consideration when it comes to laying down a definite, clear-cut policy to be followed when peace is reached. But the question does not end here, for one of the many truths which the British people have learned since the war broke out—though it was constantly being pressed home long before that time by those who knew the facts—is that our educational system falls far short of what it should be if we are to entertain serious hopes of keeping abreast of the times. In the past, unhappily, the education question has been considered fair game for party politicians, who have been concerned more with thrusting their sectarian opinions down the throats of the scholars than with securing for them a really sound and practical basis of learning which shall be of use to them in after-life. The result has been a tinkering and a tampering with the educational code by whichever party has happened to be in power, and such a thing as a comprehensive, well-reasoned scheme, devised with the sole object of giving full scope and play to each child's individuality, has seldom engaged the serious attention of the authorities.

Lord Haldane, whose competency to speak on such a question as this is universally admitted, has, we see, been expressing himself on the educational reforms which he thinks it will be necessary to institute after the war. The first point he makes in regard to elementary tuition is that children must be taught by teachers with a wide outlook. Here he has put his finger on one of the weakest fundamental spots in our elementary educational system. There are, of course, exceptions to the rule, but, putting it on general lines, it cannot be denied that the average elementary school-teacher at home is sadly lacking in initiative, in originality and in personality. He is all too often of an uninspiring, unimaginative type which cannot be expected to bring out the best that is in his pupils and develop and encourage it as it should be developed and encouraged. One needs scarcely wonder at that fact when consideration is given to the low rate of salary which teachers command, and we are therefore glad to see that Lord Haldane advocates better pay and the necessity of a University education for all who take up the work of instructing children. In the past it has been thought that any kind of instruction was good enough for pupils attending the elementary schools. How much waste the nation has suffered through the undeveloped talent of many of its children being allowed to lie dormant, as a consequence of the prevalence of this view, can never be known. If we are to get the best out of our race, we must begin our reforms at the bottom, and evolve such a scheme of national education as will inevitably produce the highest results.

Our children cannot, of course, all be geniuses, but they can all be trained to fill an essentially valuable place in society. Above all, they can, and should, be sent out on life, at the end of their training, with aspirations sufficiently high to look for something better than blind-alley callings. Lord Haldane had that point in mind in urging that when children begin to earn something, after attaining the age of fourteen, the employers must send them to special trade continuation schools until they are eighteen, when they should be examined for journeymen's certificates, and, if they continue three years longer, for masters' certificates. He also urges compulsory education for entry to a university. Whether these be the right or the wrong lines upon which to proceed, it is something to feel that this question of post-war educational reform is not being overlooked. It will compel attention in the near future. And its significance and importance are no whit less than the many other problems which we shall have to face when peace comes.

The Parish.

As time passes, it becomes more and more difficult to understand how any nation that has five cents' worth of respect for itself can still maintain friendly relations with Germany. In most countries, when a man has proved himself to be past all redemption, in lying, dishonesty and all-round blackguardism, he is told in no uncertain manner that his former friends wish to have nothing more to do with him. The clubs bar him, people refuse to invite him to their houses or to speak to him in the street, and, in a score of ways, it is made quite clear to him that no-one desires his acquaintance. Society is bound to take such a course in self-defence. It may (and generally does) consent to associate with a thorough scoundrel so long as his villainies are not too apparent; but, if the press or the courts have shown him in his true light, he is finished as to being admitted into decent company again. Why is not a blackguard nation treated in the same manner? The neutral countries, however hypocritical some of them may be, can no longer remain blind to Germany's proved falsity and general wickedness. Then how is it possible for them, if they have any conscience, to remain on amicable terms with her? We need not enumerate the sins which she has committed. An individual who had been shown to have broken half as many moral laws as she would find that only the very sweepings of society would consort with him. Are we to take it that what applies to the individual does not apply to the nation?

China and the Entente.

As Reuter is never in any desperate hurry to inform us concerning the things that matter, we have, at the moment of writing, no further official news regarding the rumoured and very much to be desired breach between Germany and China. The Hongkong vernacular papers, however, have more to say on the subject. Indeed it was confidently asserted yesterday by the Chinese that the Boche Minister in Peking had been given his papers; and to-day it is announced that Ngan Wai-hing, China's representative in Berlin, has also received his, and is returning by way of France, leaving affairs in the hands of the Mexican Minister. There is still, it seems, some talk in the North of the Government's having been urged by America in the matter, but the other story—to the effect that Vice-President Fang Kuo-cheong, backed by the Chinese Ministers to Britain, Belgium and France, precipitated things—sounds the more feasible. So long as the rupture is there it matters little, at the moment, how it was brought about. Perhaps Reuter and the censorate will be good enough to let the Hongkong public know how matters stand, for the point is not quite a minor one so far as this Colony is concerned.

Intern Them Now.

As our readers are aware, we have advocated, from the very beginning, the desirability of China's keeping a tight band over the Germans who have been endeavouring to make for themselves a comfortable lodgment within her territory. According to 1915 statistics, in Shanghai alone there are, or were, close on twelve hundred of these undesirable, in addition to Austrians; there are considerable colonies of them in most of the other Treaty Ports, and there are scattered individuals to be found in every province—each one of them more or less a danger to China's well being. It is an open secret that many of them have been untiring in their efforts to create trouble in Hongkong and Japan from a safe distance, and firms like Arnold Karberg would willingly stir up another revolution at a moment's notice for the sake of being able to dispose of what is left of their stock of arms. The Chinese are now quite well aware that never at any time have they been safe from one form of trouble or another so long as the Germans remained at large; they know what the Germans have been responsible for in Mexico and the United States, to say nothing of India and Ireland; and, for the sake of their own safety and prosperity, it is their duty to put underlock and key, without delay, every enemy subject throughout the country.

DAY BY DAY.

OPTIMISM IS LIFE. PESSIMISM SLOW SUICIDE.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 4.9/10d.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the 19th anniversary of the destruction of the U.S.S. Maine.

War Comforts. Mrs. Caspell's working party has sent off this week, through Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Co., one parcel to Miss Vivian containing 50 pieces of children's clothing; and two parcels to Miss Tucker, containing 69 pieces of men's clothing.

"Boy's" Clothes Stolen. At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, a Chinese was charged with stealing some clothing, the property of the No. 1 boy at the Grange-gower Cricket Club. He was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

C. E. M. S. Conference. The first of three Conferences arranged by the Church of England Men's Society is to be held on Thursday evening in the City Hall, commencing at 6 p.m., when a paper will be read by Rev. C. L. Hooper Hunt on "Is Genesis true to Science?" Dr. Earle will preside, and all men are invited. The reading of the paper will be followed by a discussion.

Secreted Opium. When two women were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with having opium in their possession it was stated that one of them had three tins concealed in a pair of shoes, and four other tins tied round her waist. In the other case the woman was charged with having twenty-two tins in her possession. Both were remanded for further evidence.

Anxious to be Clean. A coal worker, who showed every sign of his calling, appeared in Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, charged with the theft of some coal. He told his Worship that he had stolen a few lumps because he wanted to sell them, buy some soap and wash himself. Apparently this laudable intent influenced his Worship to take a lenient view, for he only fined him \$10, or 14 days' hard labour.

To Soothe his Bruises. For stealing one and three quarter pounds of sugar from the China Sugar Refinery, a Chinese was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistrate's Court this morning. His excuse was that he had taken it to put into some medicine he was preparing to cure him of bruises he had received through being assaulted. Inspector Sim stated that there was a great leakage of sugar from the refinery, that two Europeans had been put on watch, and that they had caught this man. Sentence of seven days' hard labour was passed.

ARRESTED IN COURT.

Thief Who Took Too Big a Risk.

Two men were charged before Mr. Melbourne, this morning, in connection with the theft of a purse, which contained \$13.95.

It appeared that the complainant was walking in the Western district when he was jostled by a crowd and he suddenly found the purse to be missing. A District Watchman arrested one man, and the others got away. It was while the watchman was in Court waiting for the case to come on that he detected the other man, whom he knew to be connected with the theft, and, arresting him, charged him as well.

The lately arrested man's story was that he had simply come to Court to watch the other case, and was not connected with the theft.

The evidence of the watchman and of the complainant established the fact that the man was there, and both defendants were sentenced to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

THE RACES.

Interesting Work at the Valley this Morning.

This morning's gallops at Happy Valley were extremely interesting by reason of the fact that the most likely Derby ponies were out. Most attention was paid to Silverstreak, this pony of John Peel's stable being a warm favourite. But only a mile was traversed and the time—2 min. 22 sec., with 31.3/5 sec. for the last quarter, was not the best that could have been done. Sir Paul's Victory Dahlia went a mile and a half, covering the last quarter in 33.2/5 sec., and Mr. Soarer's Heroloni went the last quarter, in a mile gallop, in 31.1/5 sec. As there was a strong wind at times blowing against the ponies on the homeward straight, times were, generally speaking, on the slow side.

The following is a list of times recorded:—

Derby Grifflins.
Heroloni. One Mile.—30.3/5; 1.15; 1.48 2/5; 2.10.3/5; last quarter, 31.1/5.
Haji. Three quarters.—41.2/5; 1.14.4/5; 1.45.2/5; last quarter, 30.3/5.
Sincia. Three quarters.—35; 1.51.7/5; 1.40.3/5; last quarter, 35.2/5.
Warriorlini. Three quarters.—36.3/5; 1.09.2/5; 1.44 3/5; last quarter, 35.1/5.
Titlemouse. One Mile.—38; 1.13.2/5; 1.48 2/5; 2.20; last quarter, 31.3/5.
Town Mouse. One Mile.—38; 1.13.2/5; 1.48.2/5; 2.20; last quarter, 31.3/5.
Glorious Pearl. Three quarters.—34; 1.07; 1.41; last quarter, 34.
Star of Djon. One Mile.—36; 1.11.3/5; 1.45.4/5; 2.19; last quarter, 33.1/5.
Jacobite. One Mile.—36; 1.11.3/5; 1.45.4/5; 2.19; last quarter, 33.1/5.
Mansur. Three quarters.—41; 1.14.2/5; 1.45.4/5; last quarter, 31.2/5.
Victory. One Mile.—35; 1.11.2/5; 1.46; 2.17.2/5; last quarter, 31.2/5.
Victory Dahlia. Mile and a half.—39.2/5; 1.17.2/5; 1.53; 2.28; 3.3.2/5; 3.37; last quarter, 33.3/5.
Formosa Chief. One Mile.—39.3/5; 1.14.2/5; 1.49.2/5; 2.20.3/5; last quarter, 31.2/5.
Silverstreak. One Mile.—38.2/5; 1.15; 1.50.2/5; 2.22; last quarter, 31.3/5.
Advance Dahlia. Last three quarters.—35; 1.05.4/5; 1.38.4/5; last quarter, 33.
Iron Duke. One Mile.—34.2/5; 1.08.2/5; 1.42; 2.13.4/5; last quarter, 31.4/5.
Brown Mouse. One mile.—37; 1.13.4/5; 1.49; 2.20.1/5; last quarter, 31.1/5.
Essex Chief. Last three quarters.—36; 1.13; 1.51.2/5; last quarter, 38.2/5.
Warrior II. One Mile.—35.4/5; 1.11; 1.45.2/5; 2.19.4/5; last quarter, 32.4/5.
Banjo. Three quarters.—36.2/5; 1.09.3/5; 1.42.2/5; last quarter, 32.4/5.
Black Prince. Three quarters.—36.2/5; 1.09.3/5; 1.42.2/5; last quarter, 32.4/5.
Russian Chief. One Mile.—41; 1.18; 1.52.2/5; 2.23.2/5; last quarter, 31.
Old Ponies.
Darby Chief. One Mile.—28.1/5; 1.15; 1.51.3/5; 2.26; last quarter, 32.2/5.
Giant Dahlia. One Mile.—37; 1.12; 1.46.3/5; 2.19; last quarter, 32.2/5.
Australian Chief. One Mile.—42; 1.20; 1.56; 2.28.2/5; last quarter, 32.2/5.
Peter Doody. One Mile.—40; 1.16; 1.48.3/5; 2.22; last quarter, 33.2/5.
Windsor Dahlia. One Mile.—37.3/5; 1.14.2/5; 1.49.4/5; 2.22.3/5; last quarter, 33.4/5.
General Birdwood. One Mile.—1.11.2/5; 1.45.2/5; 2.16.4/5; last quarter, 31.2/5.
Triumph Dahlia. One Mile.—37.1/5; 1.11.1/5; 1.44.2/5; 2.15; last quarter, 30.8/5.
Oadrow's Walt (Late Eak). Mile and a quarter.—38.2/5; 1.16.2/5; 1.55; 2.29; 2.59.2/5; last quarter, 30.2/5.
Pingwa Chief. One Mile.—39; 1.14; 1.47.2/5; 2.19; last quarter, 31.3/5.

"JOHN BULL" AND HONGKONG.

An Echo of a "Telegraph" Complaint.

John Bull of January 6, gives us the following interesting item, under the heading:—

"Our day" at Hongkong produced a Fair on behalf of the funds and the Fair produced a cockney. Somebody remarked in a Hongkong newspaper that while one of the cockneys represented the Sultan, there was no effigy of the Kaiser to throw things at. Whereupon a prominent Civil Servant rushed into print to protest—almost with tears—that the Turkish figure was not the Sultan, and that any cockney of the Kaiser would have been "displeasing to his Majesty King George."

"We are left marvelling at the gross impudence of a Civil Servant who dares to write what he thinks is the mind of the King."

THE COLONY'S HEALTH.

During the week ending the 10th inst., there were 47 cases of small-pox notified in the Colony, 23 of which occurred in the city of Victoria. There were 41 deaths from the disease. The sufferers were one British and the rest Chinese, one case being imported.

The only other cases of communicable disease notified were four of diphtheria (all Chinese), of which three terminated fatally; one fatal occurrence of plague (Chinese); and one non-fatal case of enteric fever, the sufferer in this instance also being a Chinese.

Since January 1, there have been three cases of plague notified, of which all have proved fatal.

Duke Dahlia. Mile and a half.—39.2/5; 1.17.2/5; 1.53; 2.28; 3.03.2/5; 3.37; last quarter, 33.3/5.

Northlands. One Mile.—39; 1.13.2/5; 1.49; 2.20.4/5; last quarter, 31.4/5.

Ploughed Field. Three quarters.—36; 1.11; 1.44; last quarter, 33.

Sandy. One Mile.—38; 1.16.2/5; 1.54; 2.26; last quarter, 32.

Daisy Chief. Last three quarters.—36; 1.13; 1.51.2/5; last quarter, 38.2/5.

The Gunner. Three quarters.—34; 1.07; 1.40; last quarter, 33.

Dixie. Last half.—33; 1.07.

Subscription Grifflins.

Mo. One Mile.—39; 1.17.3/5; 1.54; 2.28; last quarter, 34.

Obiethain. One Mile.—33; 1.08.3/5; 1.44.2/5; 2.19.4/5; last quarter, 33.1/5.

Drumstick and Drumclaz. One Mile.—35.2/5; 1.11.2/5; 1.46.3/5; 2.22; last quarter, 35.2/5.

Brown Boss. Three quarters.—36; 1.09.1/5; 1.42; last quarter, 32.4/5.

Dandy Dahlia and Cheerful Dahlia. One Mile.—35.2/5; 1.12.4/5; 1.48.4/5; 2.21.3/5; last quarter, 32.3/5.

King Bon and King Dick. One Mile.—36.4/5; 1.12; 1.46; 2.20.1/5; last quarter, 34.1/5.

Paroloni. Three quarters.—42; 1.16.1/5; 1.52.2/5; last quarter, 36.1/5.

Jadestone and Moonstone. One Mile.—37; 1.13.2/5; 1.49; 2.28; last quarter, 37.

Trojan. One Mile.—35.4/5; 1.11; 1.45.2/5; 2.19.4/5; last quarter, 34.2/5.

Fieldmouse. One Mile.—36.2/5; 1.11; 1.46; 2.19.2/5; last quarter, 32.2/5.

Whitemetal. Three quarters.—37.2/5; 1.11.2/5; 1.48.4/5; last quarter, 35.2/5.

Triumph King. Three quarters.—33.2/5; 1.07.3/5; 1.41.4/5; last quarter, 34.1/5.

Goliwog. One Mile.—38; 1.13; 1.47.2/5; 2.20.2/5; last quarter, 33.

Hang On. Three quarters.—35.2/5; 1.10; 1.46.4/5; last quarter, 36.4/5.

Brown Sager. Three quarters.—33.3/5; 1.07.3/5; 1.47.1/5; last quarter, 39.3/5.

Peerless Pearl. Three quarters.—38; 1.11.3/5; 1.46; last quarter, 34.2/5.

Spalpeen. Three quarters.—35.2/5; 1.08.4/5; 1.41.4/5; last quarter, 35.

Blackhead. One Mile.—39.3/5; 1.15; 1.50.3/5; 2.24; last quarter, 33.2/5.

Sahab. Three quarters.—34; 1.07.2/5; 1.46.2/5; last quarter, 37.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

It is announced that Germany is about to empty her jails into the Army, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*. As her criminal population is a large one, it is believed that between 50,000 and 100,000 recruits may be obtained from this source, and we cannot see that there should be any particular difficulty in the way. An Army in which rape, mutilation, and robbery are commonplace with all ranks can have few susceptibilities to be injured by the society of professional male-factors, and the distinction which has so far kept the convict out of uniform is obviously meaningless and artificial. As for the command of the new criminal divisions, there could scarcely be a happier selection than the Crown Prince, who has lately resigned his charge of the front opposite Verdun.

People who are preaching the virtue of small Cabinets to-day, says the *Daily News*, because they succeeded in the past (not always in the eyes of contemporaries, by the way) forget that things have moved since the days of Pitt. When Pitt was fighting Napoleon there were hardly as many male persons of all ages in Great Britain as there are soldiers and sailors armed under our flag to-day! (In England, Wales, and Scotland the total population in 1801 was 10,505,143.) As to money, the total National Debt in the year of Waterloo was £861,000,000, or actually less than one-half of the Votes of Credit (including the £400,000,000 proposed) for the current financial year alone, that amount being £1,750,000,000. It is forgotten that there were small Cabinets in the old days because the possible offices to be filled were few in number. Departments having grown with national development and democratic control. There was no War Secretary as such until as late as 1858. Previously the position was merged in the Colonial Secretaryship. We have outgrown not only the days of Pitt and Palmerston, but those of Gladstone himself.

A story of the late Lord Kitchener, which is not without its deeper lesson, was told the other day in London. At an early stage in the negotiations leading up to the peace of Vereeniging in May, 1902, a distinguished officer, who was a friend of the commander-in-chief, sent the latter a Prefector, a private telegram, reading as follows:—"May we sing at church peace next Sunday Hymn No. 537—'Peace, Perfect Peace?' There's peace, stern and prompt: 'No; sing Hymn No. 269—'Christian, Seek Not Yet Repose.'"

By his intervention in Mr. Lloyd George's speech recently, says the *Manchester Guardian*, Mr. Asquith finally set at rest a discussion which has taken place for some time (and to which reference was made in this column a few months ago) as to the taking of notes in the Cabinet. A paragraph which appeared here stated that there was a strict rule that no notes should be made of the discussions in the Cabinet, and Mr. G. W. E. Russell then observed that if the statement were true it was difficult to explain certain passages in the memoirs of public men which have appeared in recent years. Mr. Asquith now says it is "an inflexible unwritten rule" that no member of the Cabinet shall take any note or record of its decisions except the Prime Minister, and he does so for the purpose of sending his letter to the King. Perhaps the disclosures which have been made in recent years have been due to Ministers talking too much. Mr. Gladstone used to maintain that a Minister was justified in sharing official secrets with his wife and his private secretary, and if every Minister followed this plan much may be explained.

Meatless Days for Italy. A decree was issued in Rome recently placing the consumption of fresh meat under government control after January 1. A central committee will fix the number of animals to be slaughtered each week. The sale of meat will be prohibited on Thursdays and Fridays and the sale of poultry permitted only on two days weekly. Arrangements will be made to ensure a supply of meat to the sick.

STOP PRESS TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

THE SUBMARINE MENACE.

No Cause for Panic.

London, February 13.

In the House of Lords, Lord Balfour stated that we had lost over four million tons of shipping during the war, but three million tons had been more or less adequately replaced. There was not the slightest cause for panic. We had done remarkably well, but would do much better, though they had a bad time to face. The new submarine was nearer being well in hand than ever, it had been, owing to men fresh from the sea, with experience of submarine, bringing new ideas into the Admiralty.

IMPORTED OPIUM.

Shipowners and Captain Charged.

The hearing was continued, at the Police Court this afternoon, of the case in which Manuel A. Conceicao, master of the s.s. Sui Kai, is charged with using his ship for importation of 1,400 taels of prepared opium, with unlawfully importing that amount into the Colony, and with aiding and abetting certain persons to import the opium.

The Yu Hing Kee, Iok Chung Sam and Li Tin Po, the Chung Wo S.S. Company, of 138, Connaught Road, Central, are also charged with allowing the ship, as owners, to carry 1,850 taels of prepared opium, and a Chinese friend is charged with importing opium on the ship.

Mr. E. J. Grist is appearing for the Captain and the owners of the vessel, and Mr. R. O. Hutchison for the prosecution.

Mr. Grist said the ship had been chartered; therefore the vessel was not under the owner's control, and they could not be held liable under the section. Under this section it was necessary to prove that they knowingly allowed the ship to be used for the purpose—guilt was essential to the charge under the section.

Mr. Hutchison said: I am not prepared to accept that. This is the first time I have heard of the chartering. The boat is in a peculiar position as it is under the Portuguese flag. The vessel was registered under the Portuguese Consul, and her real port of registry was Macao.

Mr. Hutchison briefly outlined the case, saying that on the 5th of this month the Sui Kai left Macao and when she arrived in British waters she dropped anchor opposite what was known as The Brothers. She was anchored at a more or less regular anchorage. About midnight a boat came from the direction of Lung Ho Tang, and a gangway was let down from the vessel. There was some discussion between the engineers and the people in the boat, and, shortly after, some opium was brought up from the engine room. Some of it was placed into the boat, and more was being taken in when the Indian watchmen, of whom there were four, who had been placed on the boat under the Piracy Act, took possession of five packages. There was a good deal of disturbance and discussion. An engineer called the captain to help to assist in getting the stuff off. The captain asked the Indian watchmen to let it go, but another disturbance followed and ever a number of shots were fired. Eventually the ship proceeded to Hongkong. The ship was searched and opium was found in the engineers' room, and a quantity in the watchmen's quarters. A thorough search of the ship was made and besides the opium found in the watchmen's quarters, a quantity was discovered in the aft water tank. The engineers and firemen, with the exception of the defendant fireman, had all absconded, and the last named was arrested when he returned to the ship.

Evidence was given by an Indian watchman, who told a graphic story of the disturbance on the ship. He said the Chief Engineer, a Chinese, went for the Captain, who came up and said "Give back that opium. It is not your business; give it all back to that Chinaman." One of the other Indians replied: "It is our business, because this is British water now, and we have got something to do with it." The captain then pushed one of the watchmen, and forced open the door of the watchmen's quarters. Witness caught hold of the captain round his waist, and the latter in turn got hold of witness's rifle. It was then he told another watchman to fire, and he did so in the direction of the captain's feet. The captain let go of the rifle and went out. Later the Chief Engineer said to one of the watchmen:—"Here, take this \$200 and let go of the opium." The captain said:—"I have nothing more on board but \$4,000 in Chinese 20-cent pieces; You may take that. That is not all in my possession; you can take \$2,000 from the comrades, \$500 from myself, and the rest from the engineers. There is no more. If there had been, I would have given it to you. You take this." The watchmen replied:—"Well, we will see at Hongkong." He replied:—"No; I want to get the opium off here." They repeated that they would see about it at Hongkong. Witness fired the shot at the deck to scare them. About 3 a.m. the engines were started for the ship to go back to Macao. The anchor was not taken up. Then witness blew a blast on his own whistle to attract the attention of a police launch or any other British ship. The Captain said:—"You have no need to blow your whistle; the ship is not going back to Macao." Later in the morning the ship arrived in Hongkong, and while he (witness) was in his room cleaning his rifle the Captain entered and told all four watchmen that they were not allowed to go on shore and inform the police. They remained on board the ship.

After further evidence, the case was adjourned.

FAMAH SENTENCED.

Why She Stole a Watch and Chain.

An smah was charged before Mr. J. B. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing a gold watch and chain from her mistress, who lives at Kennedy Road, Wanchoi.

The defendant said that she stole the things because she wanted to leave the place and her master would not let her go. She had treated her very badly. She had "bad thoughts," and took the jewelry.

Inspector Gordon said that the defendant was arrested at Kowloon Railway Station yesterday as she was about to board a train. The jewelry was stuffed in the toe of her boot, and when it was discovered, she at first refused to say where she got it from. She also tried to escape from the Police.

Sentence of four months' hard labour was passed.

PASSENGERS DEPARTED.

Per s.s. KOREA MARU, for San Francisco, on Feb. 13.

Arpagan J M	Parker Master F
Alabaster Mr & Mrs	Parker Master J
Mrs E	Parker Master A
Bunker Mr & Mrs	Robertson Miss
Blakely D	Robertson G
Brown Mrs G S	Schoellkopf Mr & Mrs
Bunker W	Mrs
Celestino C Bishop	Sands Mrs James
Glass Louis	Smith M & Mrs
Gibson J E	W Z
Gonzales J J	Scott Miss H B
Hartman A	Sumaki
Holt Mrs C E M	Stack Mr & Mrs C W
Hon Foe-hong	Thoresen Mr & Mrs
Johnson C A	O
Kwok Ko-chor	Taylor Miss H M
Lechler F	Taylor H H
Little Miss M M	Thompson A
Miller Mrs T	Victoria Dr & Mrs
Miller Mrs A	B V
Miller Miss B E	Woo Dr
Manning J E	Young Mr & Mrs
Murphy J E	W M
Moran T J	Young Master H
Nuss Mr & Mrs F L	Young Master V
Parsons H	Yuen Kwok Mr & Mrs
Parker Rev & Mrs J	Robertson G
Parker Miss E	Zhanghua Rev A
Hearn Mr & Mrs	Robson Mr & Mrs
Holmgren Mrs V Z	Robson Mr & Mrs
Ichijima T	Robson Mr & Mrs
James Rev Brother	Sauer J N S
MacElroy Mr & Mrs	Slater C H
Murdock J	Tench Y G
Mason Miss	Yanagisawa S
Pools G E	

Amaid Mr & Mrs. Branch Capt & Mrs.

and the latter in turn got hold of witness's rifle. It was then he told another watchman to fire, and he did so in the direction of the captain's feet. The captain let go of the rifle and went out. Later the Chief Engineer said to one of the watchmen:—"Here, take this \$200 and let go of the opium." The captain said:—"I have nothing more on board but \$4,000 in Chinese 20-cent pieces; You may take that. That is not all in my possession; you can take \$2,000 from the comrades, \$500 from myself, and the rest from the engineers. There is no more. If there had been, I would have given it to you. You take this." The watchmen replied:—"Well, we will see at Hongkong." He replied:—"No; I want to get the opium off here." They repeated that they would see about it at Hongkong. Witness fired the shot at the deck to scare them. About 3 a.m. the engines were started for the ship to go back to Macao. The anchor was not taken up. Then witness blew a blast on his own whistle to attract the attention of a police launch or any other British ship. The Captain said:—"You have no need to blow your whistle; the ship is not going back to Macao." Later in the morning the ship arrived in Hongkong, and while he (witness) was in his room cleaning his rifle the Captain entered and told all four watchmen that they were not allowed to go on shore and inform the police. They remained on board the ship.

After further evidence, the case was adjourned.

ALLIES IN 1916.

Steady Superiority Over the Germans.

In a review of the military events on the Western front during 1916, excessive pessimism is as much to be deprecated as excessive optimism. On the one hand, the fact that the Allies have failed to pierce the German line must be frankly admitted. Against this fact, however, several important considerations must be set. It is clear enough that the enemy has lost very heavily in man power, and that it is far more difficult for him to fill up the gaps than it is for the Allies who have a practically inexhaustible reserve of men. Then the Allies have for the first time asserted on the Somme a supremacy in artillery and munitions that only a very optimistic German can ever hope to wrest from us.

Another encouraging factor of vital importance is the steady progress made by the Allies towards the elaboration and application of the new tactical system required by the unprecedented deadlock on the Western front. The French High Command, in close collaboration with the British, has been steadily, in the field and behind the lines, devising a system, capable of ending the Allies' advantage of the deadlock temporarily produced by the successful German defensive on the present trench line. The basis of such a system events have shown must be a very great artillery superiority over the enemy at the point attacked. This superiority depends not merely on the weight of metal but also on a mastery of the air, without which the gunners are blind.

An interesting instance of the manner in which the Allies are steadily adapting old methods and inventing new ones to meet the new conditions is given by the way in which they have dealt with kite balloons. At the beginning of the war the enemy was well provided with this means of aerial observation.

Just before the battle of Champagne a German "dragon" was brought down by an aeroplane armed with a small gun firing an explosive shell, and this success had a very considerable result, since it shook the confidence of the enemy's observers, and made them far more cautious in jumping up their balloons. Then the rocket system was invented, and proved so successful on the Somme and also at Verdun that the enemy, slipping a number of balloons, only ventured to see them at a considerable distance from the front lines, and then only left them in the air for the shortest possible time.

The unspeakable riddle of the enemy's first Verdun capitulation, the French defence, as the Germans had foreseen, but had also an effect that they do not seem to have anticipated in the same degree. It provided such brave men as escaped with some shelter against the storm in the depth of shell holes and behind the wreckage.

A solution of a number of vital problems rising from the Battle of Champagne has been reached. The result of the intelligent and unwearying efforts of the French High Command was that after three and four months of hard offensive on the Somme, the French had conquered far more ground, captured many more prisoners, than in Champagne, while they had actually lost fewer men than they had in the first three days of that offensive.

A new method of assault has been devised, and the Germans, thanks to mud and winter, have not yet felt its full value. For that they must wait until the offensive has been resumed. Slowly but surely the offensive is getting on even terms with the defensive. This offensive lies in the initiative of the Allies, since we possess that artillery preponderance without which an offensive is impossible. Events have shown that the most strongly fortified positions can be taken with insignificant losses. The defensive has but one resource. The defenders can burrow deeper and deeper into the ground, and seek to strengthen their shelters by a still more progressive use of armour and explosives.

BRITISH POST OFFICES IN CHINA.

Hongkong U. S. Consul's Views.

Writing with reference to the recent notification of the post-office department of the colonial government of Hongkong that Postal Union rates would in future obtain between British post-offices in China and the United Kingdom, as well as the rest of the world, the United States Consul-General, Mr. George E. Anderson, says:—

The chief significance of the announcement lies in the fact that the alternative of this increase in rates was the suspension or abolishment of all British post offices in China, and it therefore involved the entire policy of foreign postal agencies in China. The United States has never adopted the policy of establishing its own post offices in the open ports of China with the single exception of Shanghai, where conditions were such and where American interests were such that that course was considered necessary, and where the American post office, operating on domestic rates with the United States and the Philippines, has become self-sustaining. The establishment of other offices would have been practicable at all times—notably at Amoy, whence most of the Chinese in the Philippines come, and where a well-established postal business would have required almost immediately—but in other ports the matter has received scant consideration.

The British postal agencies in China have come to represent such a loss that the burden will no longer be carried. Under the organization of the British postal system these offices are under the control of the Hongkong post office. Until about four years ago their operation was actually under Hongkong post office accounts and all losses were made good from the earnings of the post office here. Since that time they have been operated by the Hongkong post office, but on separate account, the loss being met by the British post office. The burden of these extra services to the Hongkong establishment at times has been very heavy. The service of mail to Great Britain and continental Europe by way of Siberia is maintained by the Hongkong office at a loss of about \$35,000 gold a year. The colony's share of the mail subsidy on paid the P. and O. Steamship Company also is a heavy burden. However, in most years the Hongkong post office is self-sustaining.

The entry of China into the International Postal Union also is a notable factor in the postal situation of the country at the present time. It is much to the interest of China that all foreign postal agencies in Chinese ports be abolished; and with the continued improvement being made in the Chinese postal service, this is likely to become a live question in the near future, especially since it appears that most foreign postal agencies are operated at a loss. In the meanwhile, the increase in rates in the British post offices brings the charges there to a level with the charges of the Chinese post office for foreign service, and this gives the Chinese post office a chance to compete with the British offices on equal terms. Aside from the single agency of the United States at Shanghai, it is generally understood that Japan is the only nation operating its postal agencies in China at a profit.

concrete. But in this direction it appears that a limit has been reached.

To meet the conditions of the new warfare the French have drawn up a new scheme of infantry tactics. With the aid of every gun which has been through the whole campaign, are learning the new methods just as the raw recruits. So at the close of 1916, if looking back we may admit that the actual accomplishment falls short of our hopes of last year, yet we have abundant proof that the lessons have not been lost, and we can look forward to the results of 1917 on the Western front with full confidence and optimism. H. W. Allen in the Daily News.

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.

Trade with China and Japan.

Speaking at the December luncheon of the American Manufacturers' Export Association, held at the Hotel Biltmore, Julian Arnold, American Commercial Attache to China, told of the trade opportunities that are open to business men in China and Japan. He also pointed out that it would be worth while to send a commission to those countries. The export manufacturers recently sent an industrial commission to France.

Mr. Arnold, as reported in the New York Journal of Commerce said in part:—

The European war has greatly accelerated the interest of the people of the United States in foreign trade. It has opened the minds of our people to a broader vision, to a realization of the fact that they are a part of the world rather than apart from the world. The vast accumulations of capital due to our prosperity during this war are according to facilities for participation in the development of foreign fields which add greatly to the necessity of a more intelligent understanding of the outside world, for it not only brings us greater opportunities, but with these greater opportunities also greater responsibilities. There is something more to foreign trade than the mere exchange of products abroad. It carries with it an exchange of ideas and a more intimate relationship with the outside world. In beginning the developments of our foreign trade in a large way as it appears we are now, let us look forth into the future with a broad vision, a vision which takes cognizance of the viewpoints of the peoples with whom we are to develop extensive commercial relations, so that we may avoid those disagreeable and oftentimes fatal misunderstandings bred in ignorance. In a word, let us strive to make the peoples with whom we would do our business our friends. This can only be done by learning to know these peoples. But we must do it if our foreign trade is to bring us peace and happiness in the end.

Our trade in day in China is but 8 per cent, to 10 per cent, of China's total foreign trade. We started trading with China at the inception of our Republic. Yankee ships were in greater numbers in China waters before the Civil War than those of any other foreign nation, when the German and Japanese flags were almost unknown in that trade.

Many of the Americans who would have business relations with China do not seem to realize that to get business in China it is necessary to go after it. Most of the China business with the outside world is done through foreign firms with organization in the field. If you cannot afford to do this, or your line does not warrant it, then attach yourself with some American organization already there. You might arrange to have your export work-in and with an American firm established in China. I should recommend very strongly that generally speaking, you make your connections in China through American organization, rather than through those of other nationality. Everything should be done to encourage the building of American prestige in business in China, and this can be best accomplished by helping to build up American organizations in China.

"I want to suggest to you, gentlemen, or rather to your association, that you encourage your members visiting China and Japan. If you send a good commission, so much the better. I can assure you that you will be royally received by both Japanese and Chinese, and that you will do much for the entire trade interests of the United States by so doing. Individual visits are also desirable.

"My message to you to-day is, learn to know the Orient. It is pregnant with commercial opportunities and is bound to be a most important factor in our world relations of the future. We are no longer apart from the world, but rather a part of the world, and as such take on new and greater responsibilities. You who are taking an active interest in our foreign trade development, are the advance guard in the new role.

CHAN PING-KWAN.

Yesterday's Complimentary Tiffin.

As stated in our issue of yesterday, the Military Governor of Kwangai H. E. Chan Ping-kwan was entertained to tiffin by the Chinese merchants of Hongkong at their Club in Queen's Road. The General has been staying in Canton in order to discuss with the officials there certain questions relative to the two Kwang Provinces. He returned to Canton last night.

The Club premises had been very tastefully decorated, and a very good band played selections before and during the meal. General Chan was accompanied by a considerable number of Kwangai officials, including Mr. Loh Chong, Superintendent of Waichow Customs and special diplomatic officer of the Ministry of Foreign Intercourse for the Province of Kwangai. With the Military Governor at table were Mr. Un Kam-wa the popular President of the Club, and Mr. Chan Siu ki. There was a very large number of Chinese present, including Messrs Wong Kwong-tin and Wong Tapa (Club Secretaries), T. N. Chan, Chan Kan-fa, Mok, Cho-chuan, Ip Wing-sho, A. Lye, Hing Kee, Lo Cho-shan, Wei Wing-sam, Un Hui-fan, J. M. Wong, Ho Wing etc. etc.

The health of His Majesty was proposed by Mr. Un Kam-wa, and that of the President by Mr. Wong Kwong-tin. In toasting the guest of the day Mr. Un Kam-wa spoke warmly on the subject of China's joining the Allies. By doing so, he said, she would strengthen her position in all directions. He also alluded to the revival of interest in Kwangtung and Kwangai mining, pointing out that the development of the industry would benefit not only the Provinces concerned but Hongkong capitalists as well. General Chan, in replying, expressed his pleasure at the warmth of the welcome he had received and promised his co-operation in any measures that would be for the general benefit. Mr. Lok Chong, in a brief speech, strongly advocated the speedy industrial development of China, pointing out that a country's commerce was its life, while Mr. Wong Kwong-tin urged the necessity of an immediate and thorough combination against the Germans.

F.M.S. MAN POWER.

The Government Employees and Employers.

Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 3.—The Government, in reply to the man power resolution, says it is unable to understand how the present scheme causes uncertainty, and trusts that all employers will encourage employees of military age to go before the advisory committee. But if it is found employers are putting pressure on employees not to do so, or that men of military age are objecting for other reasons to be examined and take advice, the Government will be ready to consider whether the wishes of the joint meeting of representatives cannot be met and an enactment providing for compulsion passed. The Government however strongly opines that the patriotic both of employers and employed is such that a voluntary scheme will be found sufficient. —Singapore Free Press.

We are now called upon to play in the great world drama. Yours is the opportunity not only for big things in commercial relationships with our neighbors across the Pacific, but also in our human relationships with these peoples. Neither gushing sentimentality nor sweeping condemnations will win for us a position of respect and solidarity with the peoples of the Orient. We must bravely and honestly face these relations with them if we are to gain and hold their respect and make an important factor in power for the Pacific the true magnificence (which the name of this great commercial highway carries). To do this we must study these peoples, bring the East to the West, as it were. Official calls for American participation in the new development of the Pacific to this call in a way calculated to build up the future.

HON. MR. C. SEVERN.

Honoured with the C.M.G. Decoration.

We are informed that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to confer the honor of a Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) on Mr. C. Severn, who was appointed to the post which he now holds, and on three occasions he has, during the absence of His Excellency the Governor, administered the Government. Since the war, additional heavy responsibilities have fallen on the Colonial Secretary's Department, and we are sure that the honor, which has now been accorded Mr. Severn in recognition of his unremitting labors during these critical times. With the community in general, we extend our congratulations to the recipient.

Prior to coming to Hongkong, the whole of Mr. Severn's Colonial service had been spent in the F.M.S. and the Straits Settlements. From 1891 to 1892, he was temporary clerk in the Librarian's department of the Foreign Office, and in 1895 he was appointed Private Secretary to the Governor of the Straits Settlements. His subsequent appointments were as follows:—Junior Officer, Selangor, 1895; Assistant District Officer, Ulu Langat, Selangor, 1897; Assistant District Officer, Seremban, 1899; Acting Magistrate, Kuala Lumpur, 1900; Assistant Secretary to the Resident General, F.M.S., 1903; Acting Federal Secretary, F.M.S., 1905; Acting District Officer, Ulu Langat, 1906-07; Acting Secretary to High Commissioner, F.M.S., and Private Secretary to the Governor of the Straits Settlements, 1907; Secretary to the High Commissioner, Malay States, 1911; Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, 1912. Mr. Severn passed in Malay and Law in 1893.

LOCAL WEDDING.

Mr. F. Bevington and Miss Jessie Olive Brown.

There was a very large attendance at the St. John's Cathedral this afternoon, on the occasion of the marriage between Mr. Francis Bevington, of Messrs. Bradley and Company, fifth son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Storm Bevington, of Erinton, Essex, and Miss Jessie Olive Brown, niece and adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Brown, of Sava, Fiji. Among those present were His Excellency the Governor and Lady May.

The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. V. Ho-Copley Moyle, and the bride, who was attended by her father, Mr. Lewis Brown, wore a dress of white Liberty satin, trimmed with "Georgette" crepe and rose point lace, with Court train. She also carried a beautiful shower bouquet of white carnations and "asparagus" and maidenhair ferns. The bridesmaid was Miss Betty Hammond, who was attired in a dress of white embroidered silk, trimmed with pink, and who carried a basket bouquet of sweet peas tied with pink ribbons. The bride's mother wore a dress of native blue tulle and tulle, with a white and blue hat, her bouquet being of pink roses, tied with native blue ribbon. The duties of "best man" were carried out by Mr. K. M. Cummings.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a reception was held at Grosvenor Hotel, at which His Excellency and Lady May entertained a large company of guests. Mr. and Mrs. Bevington received the congratulations of numerous friends, and the wedding feast was a most sumptuous one. The honeymoon will be spent at Taipei, the bride and groom being "in the East" for a few days. There was a large number of guests present.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

South African Wool.

A sample of South African wool ordered by the Mulin Spinning and Weaving Co. in Osaka has recently arrived at Kobe. The total volume of cargo is 200 bales or 7,000 lb., mostly greasy wool. In view of the difficulty of obtaining Australian wool the woolen mill men in Japan are paying much attention to the result of this experimental measure taken by the Mulin Spinning and Weaving Co. The quality of the sample from South Africa is said to be quite excellent and in every respect it compares favourably with Australian wool, but inferior qualities are mixed with the present sample. If this be the usual practice of South African wool sellers, says a Tokyo paper, it will not be a little restriction to the trade just to be begun. The cost including all charges is also rather high though it may be slightly lower than the present famine prices.—Exchange.

Increase in Philippine Cigar Shipments.

An increase of almost 300 per cent in the export of Philippine cigars to the United States during the month of January, 1917, as compared with January, 1916, is shown in the statement issued by the Manila collector of internal revenue. According to this statement 12,943,108 Manila cigars were shipped to the United States last month as compared with 4,506,224 for January, 1916; 4,219,398 for January, 1915 and 3,163,308 for the same month of 1914. The shipments of last month exceed those of 1913, which total only 11,458,197. In commenting on these figures the collector stated that while he was gratified at the increase shown as a result of the greater efforts of his bureau to stimulate the export trade in Manila cigars during the past year, he is nevertheless disappointed in the fact that an increasingly large proportion of low grade cigars are being sent. To effect the increasing demand for low-priced cigars in the United States, Mr. Rafferty states that only organized distribution and price regulation among the manufacturers will suffice, and if such action is not taken the Philippine Islands are in imminent danger of another disastrous slump such as followed the extraordinary proportion of cheap cigars shipped in 1913.

Norwegian Commercial and Shipping Expansion.

The present year has witnessed a very strong demand for capital, which at some periods has been of such a heavy character that it has threatened to break some of the younger and less experienced Norwegian financial institutions. According to the *Norwegian Official Gazette*, between January 1 and September 30, this year, the capital invested in Norwegian shipping has increased by about 585 million kroner (about 33 million pounds sterling). Next to the shipping trade the banking institutions have absorbed the largest capital investments. The returns show that 24 new banks have been established, with a capital of 40,300,000 kroner, and 24 old banks have increased their capital by 25,100,000 kroner. New industrial companies have been formed with a total capital of 21,400,000 kroner, and old companies have increased their capital by 241 million kroner for expansion purposes. Amongst the new companies are many industrial undertakings which have not formerly existed in Norway. Four new mining companies, with a capital of 6,480,000 kroner, have been formed, and one has increased its capital by 1½ million kroner. Of these companies some are coal mining companies working in Spitsbergen. The insurance business has been increased by four new large companies with a total capital of 12½ million kroner, while five old companies have increased their capital by 3,650,000 kroner. As regards commercial companies, 11 new ones have been formed, with a capital of 5,400,000 kroner, and three old companies have increased their capital by about 21 million kroner.

Roumanian Oilfields Destroyed.

London, Dec. 29. — Presiding at the ordinary meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., held in London to-day, Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., said that probably the value of the oilfields destroyed by the Allies in the Roumanian retreat amounted to 30 millions sterling. It was wholesale destruction; effectively carried out by the British Military Commission, acting upon their instructions from headquarters. This work of destruction so ably carried out, rendered the property and stock utterly useless to the enemy. He asked, however, whether this wholesale destruction was necessary. He thought that if good artillery and shells had been sent it would probably not have been necessary. The military commission had, therefore, no other alternative but to take these drastic measures because of the absence of adequate munitions. The oil wells of German companies had also met a similar fate. As to the booty captured by the enemy it was much less in value than it was to them at a corresponding period of three months prior to the war. Consequently they had gained no compensation. While he deeply deplored the disaster which had overtaken Roumanian, there could be no doubt as to the advantages accruing by Roumanian entering into the war. Great Britain and the Allies owed a great debt of gratitude to that heroic nation for the enormous advantages through their noble adhesion to our cause. When the Roumanian Army had an opportunity of recuperating, he foresaw that they would accomplish brave deeds in combination with the Russians such as have only been equalled by the Allies in the other war areas.

Beet Sugar.—Guarantees Wanted.

At the public meeting recently held in the Cannon-street Hotel to consider the question of the growing of beet and the manufacture of beet sugar, the chairman, Mr. Edmund Kimber, referred to the associations which had made more or less satisfactory experiments in the growth of beet and held meetings and passed resolutions strongly in favour of the industry. None of them, however, had, he said, obtained what they all deemed most necessary; namely, a Government guarantee of interest on the capital required for its development. The German and Austrian Governments some years ago so fostered the sugar industry in their countries that in the year before the war they were able to supply this country with 15,000,000 worth of sugar out of a total consumption of 23,000,000. Their supply had gone for ever. Now is the time for action. The land, if prepared now, could grow a crop of some size in the coming year, and by the time it was ready for the factory some machinery could be got ready. It would by degrees, and in a few years, supply the whole of the deficiency. During the last 25 years 4,000,000 acres had gone out of cultivation in Great Britain, but 500,000 acres would supply the deficiency and bring in from arable land five times the revenue now derived from pasture. Guarantees of interest on capital were no new thing in the British Empire. In 1882 the Indian Government refused to give any more guarantee for railways, but was later obliged to reverse their decision, and to-day the Government was receiving as its share of the profits, in consideration of such guarantees, 24,000,000 a year. The same thing would happen here, though with greater advantage in the case of beet. By degrees the Government would receive an enormous profit, amounting probably to 25,000,000 a year without in any way injuring the West Indian cane sugar trade. Mr. Fleming moved three resolutions, which were carried unanimously, condemning the bondage this country was in to foreign countries for sugar, requesting the Government to give the requisite guarantee of interest on the capital required.

Chinese Trade to the F.M.S.

Says the *Malay Mail*:—The prosperity of these States, to repeat a statement very frequently made, is in a large measure due to the Chinese merchant and the Chinese labourer. The peaceful Chinese penetration which the F.M.S. has enjoyed can in no way be compared to the system of German penetration. The former thickens the life blood of a country, the latter sucks the blood from a country's vitals. The prosperity of Chinese trade is therefore a matter of extreme importance to these lands. Chinese New Year forms a particularly appropriate time in which to review the past year's activities in the local bazaar, and a representative of the *Malay Mail* with the idea of obtaining the Chinese view yesterday interviewed a number of prominent local Chinese business men on the subject. The year generally is conceded to have been prosperous, despite numerous difficulties. The future is obscure and only one gentleman would speak definitely on the subject, only to take an optimistic view. It was felt that so long as the main industries, i.e., tin and rubber, remained as they were at present all would go well. The opinions collected were as follows:—Mr. Loke Yew's attorney, Mr. Kam Chuan, said that it had been a prosperous year. Money had not been very tight, business had been good and almost every shop showed good profits. The main feature of the market had been the impossibility almost of obtaining goods. The dealers who had exercised some degree of foresight in getting together large stocks had in consequence reaped good profits, while the more cautious trader had not made much. Dealers in ironware of every description had made most. For instance, obangkols, which had cost from 45 cents to 50 cents each in pre-war days, were now from \$1.30 to \$1.45. The cost price of articles had, it was true, been higher, but profits had been larger than in ordinary times. This coupled with a big demand for ironware had resulted in excellent business. Tin had been moderately good and the coolies had in consequence been peaceful. There was, however, a movement among the mining coolies leading large numbers of them to the estates, where there was less work and more pay. This would have a great effect on mining and would result in the introduction of labour-saving machinery. At present, however, the shortage prevented working on anything like a big scale. After the war more machinery would be introduced into the F.M.S. Questioned as to the future trade prospects, Mr. Kam Chuan said that people out here were entirely dependent on rubber and tin. If these two failed, where did the prospect come in? Under present conditions it was not possible to see ahead with any degree of certainty. Another prominent member of the local Chinese community and a leading member of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce said that the year had been fairly prosperous and better than that of the year before, by which time the people had not quite settled down to war conditions. No complaints had been received from anywhere with regard to loss of trade. The prosperity of the people was demonstrated by the absence of gang robberies, usually so prevalent at this time, and the scarcity of bankruptcy cases. This prosperity was due to the prices of tin and rubber which had been steady and favourable throughout the year. The movements of these products automatically affected the mercantile community as well as coolies. Speaking of the movement of the tin market, Mr. Kam Chuan said that to a certain extent they were feeling the scarcity of labour very badly. This, however, might prove to be a blessing in disguise, as it would force the Chinese mine owners who have hitherto shunned the use of machinery to turn to it. The shortage of tonnage from China and the increase in insurance and freight, coupled with the unfavourable exchange on Hongkong had inconvenienced business to a certain extent. The buyer, however, was made to bear this, and it had not affected the prosperity of the shopkeepers to any great extent. During the past year the Chinese had been far more peaceful than in any other year. The new taxes had had no great effect on the prosperity of the people except the taxes imposed on tobacco and matches, which had had an appreciable effect on the expenses of the rich class coolie class. This was not, however, very serious. Things were now getting more normal owing to the publication of Government notices which regulated commodities to something like their former level. The trade with Europe was in a better condition than that with China. Owing to heavy stocks got from Europe to counteract the effects of the shortage of tonnage more profits had been made on European goods than on Chinese goods. It was impossible to look into the future at present. Mr. San Ah Wing, of the Kwong Yik Bank, said that the Chinese last year had done some very good business, and the war had not affected trade, though it had caused everything to go up in price, particularly in regard to Chinese goods, which were affected by the high freight and unfavourable rate of exchange. Speaking on the cause of the unfavourable exchange with China, Mr. Ah Wing said that it was due to the high prices of silver. At one time this necessitated a premium of 4 per cent on drafts to China. This time last year the banks had been getting more than 20 discount. This, naturally, had caused the increase in all articles imported from China. Owing, however, to the steady price of rubber and tin all the Chinese and Malays had been doing well. It was difficult to look into the future. Prices of all commodities would go up still further next year in view of the scarcity of shipping. The present "pinch" would, he thought, continue for at least a year after the war. Mr. Loke Chow Kit, J. P., said that trade had been quite all right. Traders had been buying dearer, but were selling dearer, with the result that there had been good profits. The war had a good effect, generally, on rubber and tin. The mines were, however, suffering from a shortage of coolies, who were invariably drawn by the lure of the rubber plantations. This necessitated the use of more machinery at a time when machinery, oil, coal and firewood were more expensive than usual. This would all result in a decrease in the profits made by the mines. Rubber, on the other hand, had benefited in every way. Speaking as to the future, Mr. Chow Kit said that if the war continued and there was any difficulty, for instance an impossibility of getting space for cargo, and they could not get their rubber and tin away, the matter would be very serious. Tonnage was decreasing and as the year went on the war would more and more affect local trade. Mr. Chua Cheng Liat, of the Cycle and Carriage Co., said that, so far as business was concerned, they had nothing to grumble at. The control of manufactures and shortage of tonnage would very much inconvenience trade in the future. After the war, in his opinion, the present state of affairs would cease to exist and things would become normal. Business, however, depended on the regular receipt of commodities.

Prussian School Boys Conscriped.

A dispatch from Copenhagen says that the government of Schleswig, Prussia has proclaimed still conscription of school boys. They will be used primarily for military training and secondarily for labour.

HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S.—SELLERS; SA.—SALES; B.—BUYERS; N.—NOMINAL.

OFFICIAL PRICES.

BANKS.

Banks	S.	\$715
Cantons	n.	\$375
North China	n.	\$150
Unions	n.	\$900
Yangszees	n. ex 73	\$255

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Fires	n.	\$155
H. K. Fires	n.	\$367½

FIRE INSURANCES.

Douglases	n.	\$114
Steamboats	n. x. d.	\$19
Indos (Def.)	n.	\$127
Indos (Pref.)	n.	\$41½
Shells	n.	100/-
Ferries	b.	\$35

SHIPPING.

Sugars	sa.	\$124
Malabons	n.	\$39
Kailans	n.	36/-
Langkats	n.	21
Raubas	s.	\$2.40
Tronohs	n.	28/-
Urals	n.	32/8

REFINERIES.

MINING.

DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, &C.

H. K. Wharves	b.	\$39½
Kowloon Docks	b.	\$126
Shai Docks	s.	t. 85

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.

Centrals	n.	\$98
H. K. Hotels	n.	\$112
Land Invest.	b.	\$91
H'preys Est.	b.	\$61½
K'loon Lands	n.	\$38
Shai Lands	n.	t. 88
West Points	s.	\$76

COTTON MILLS.

Ewos	n.	t. 145
Kung Yiks	s.	t. 13½
Shai Cottons	s.	t. 118
Yangtzepeos	n.	t. 63

MISCELLANEOUS.

Borneos	n.	\$8.00
China Light & P. b.	n.	\$4.60
Providents	n.	\$9.00
Dairy Farms	n.	\$25½
Green Islands	n.	\$11.50
H. K. Electrics	sb.	\$19
H. K. Ice Co.	n.	\$180
Ropes	n.	\$34½
Steel Foundries	n.	\$10
Trams, Low Level	n.	\$7.50
Trams, Peak, old	n.	\$10
Trams, Peak, new	n.	\$1
Laundries	n.	\$3½
U. Waterboats	b.	\$153½
Watsons	b.	\$64
Wm. Powells	n.	\$8
Morning Posts	n.	\$29

CORRECTED TO MON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1917.

BENJAMIN & POTTS.

Share and General Brokers. Princes Building. Tel. address: Broker.

EXCHANGE.

SELLING.

T/T	2/4½
Demand	2/4 9/16
30 d/s	2/4 9/16
60 d/s	2/4 9/16
4 m/s	2/4 13/16
T/T Shanghai	Nom.
T/T Singapore	101½
T/T Japan	110½
T/T India	172 Nom.
Demand, India	172 Nom.
T/T San Francisco	56½
co & New York	56½
T/T Java	136½
T/T Manila	Nom.
T/T France	3.30
Demand, Paris	3.30½

BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C	2/5 5/16
4 m/s. D/P	2/5 7/16
6 m/s. L/C	2/5 9/16
30 d/s. Sydney & Melbourne	2/5 9/16
30 d/s. San Francisco & New York	57½
4 m/s. Marks	Nom.
4 m/s. France	3.42
6 m/s. France	3.47
Demand, Germany	—
Demand, New York	56½
T/T Bombay	—
Demand, Bombay	172 Nom.
T/T Calcutta	—
Demand, Calcutta	172 Nom.
Demand, Manila	113
Demand, Singapore	101½
On Haiphong	24½ prem.
On Saigon	2½ prem.
On Bangkok	64½
Sovereign	8.35 Nom.
Gold Leaf, per oz.	47.70
Bar Silver, per oz.	—

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

BANKS.

BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS:

For 3 Months 3% per annum.

For 6 Months 4% per annum.

For 12 Months 4½% per annum.

LOOK POON SHAN, Chief Manager.

NOTICE.

NOTICE.

PEAK TRAMWAYS CO. LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 AM to 1.00 AM. Every 15 minutes.

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BANKS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital\$15,000,000

RESERVE FUNDS:

Sterling £1,500,000 at 2/-

Silver\$15,000,000

.....\$18,000,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors\$33,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. C. E. Anson

Mr. W. L. Morrison

Mr. J. H. Dowling

Mr. T. M. Edinborough

Mr. G. H. G. G. G.

Mr. J. H. G. G.

Mr. J. H. G. G.

Mr. J. H. G. G.

Mr. J. H. G. G.

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Mr. J. H. G. G.

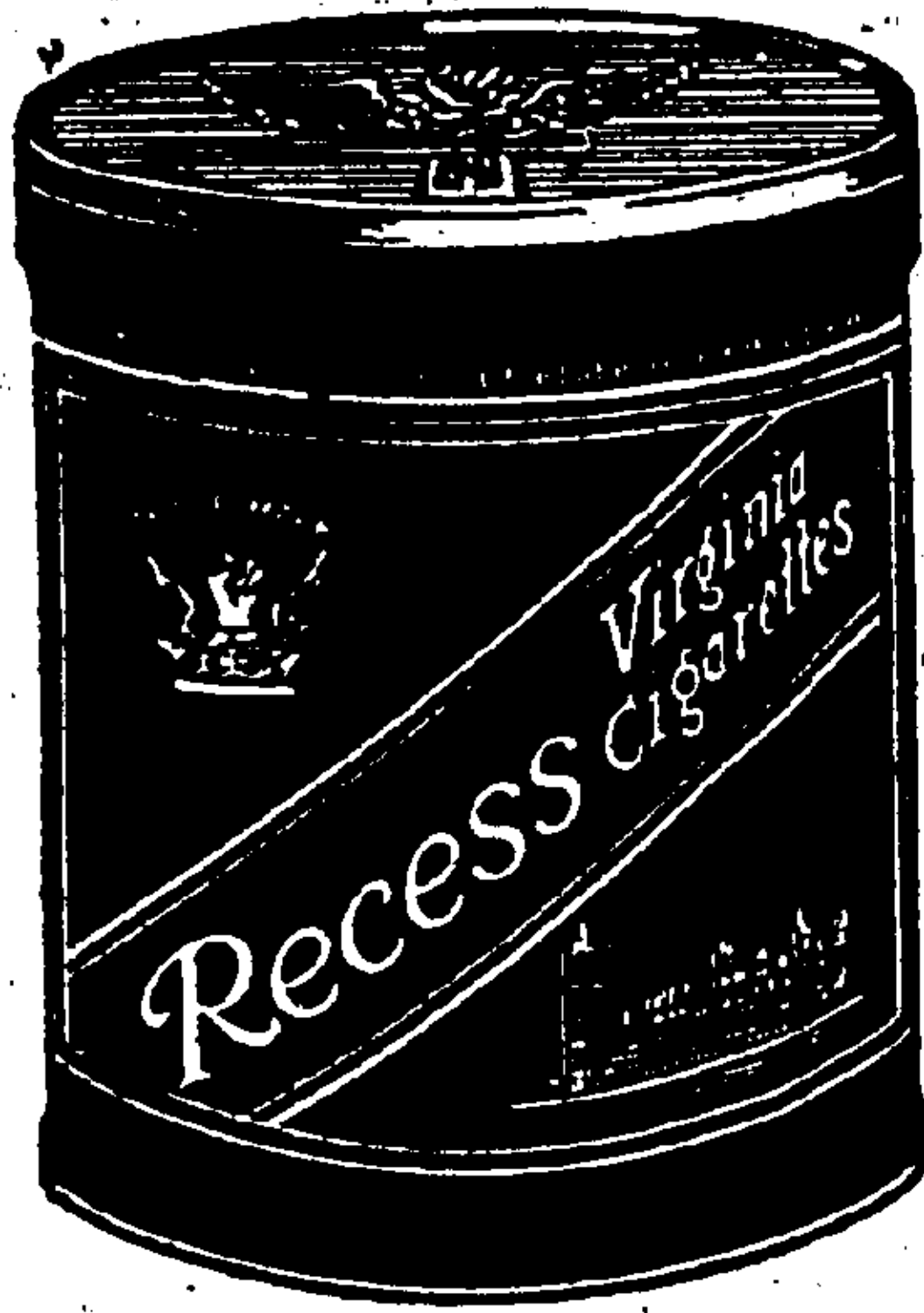
Mr. J. H. G. G.

Mr. J. H. G. G.

NOTICES.

"RECESS"

HIGH GRADE VIRGINIA CIGARETTES.



MANUFACTURED BY

WESTMINSTER TOBACCO CO. LD.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on **THURSDAY, the 22nd February, 1917,** commencing at 2.45 p.m. at No. 1, Morrison Hill (Ground Floor), Wanchai.

A Quantity of Valuable Household Furniture

Comprising:—Teak hutch and with bevelled mirror, Chesterfield couch and easy chairs, teak desk, overmantel, tapestry and muslin curtains, engravings, ornaments, carpets, etc., etc.

Teak extension dining table and dining chairs, teak sideboard and dinner wagon with bevelled mirrors, dinner crockery, etc., etc.

Teak double bedstead, teak wardrobe, teak dressing tables, marble top washstand, chest of drawers, toilet crockery, etc., etc.

On view from Wednesday the 21st inst.

Catalogue will be issued. Terms—Cash on delivery.

GEO. P. LAMMERT, Auctioneer.

NOTICES.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, St. George's Buildings, No. 6, Connaught Road, on **FRIDAY, the 23rd February, 1917, at 11.30 a.m.** for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from **MONDAY, the 19th February, 1917, until FRIDAY, the 23rd February, 1917, both days inclusive.**

SHEWAN TOMES & CO. General Managers. Hongkong, 12th February, 1917.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

GEO. P. LAMMERT.

AUCTIONEER, SHARE & GENERAL BROKER.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction on **THURSDAY, the 15th February, 1917,** commencing at 11 a.m. at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street.

A Quantity of Valuable Household Furniture

comprising:—Teak extension dining table, teak sideboard, dinner wagon, roll top desk, teak bookcases, writing table, engravings, ornaments, gas fittings, glassware, etc., etc.

Teak wardrobes, single and double brass-mounted iron bedsteads, toilet table, washstands, chests of drawers, Shanghai baths, etc., etc.

Also 1 Grand Piano by Collard and Collard.

Several Typewriters (in good condition).

And A Quantity of Code Books and Typewriter Ribbons.

On view from Wednesday, the 14th inst.

Catalogue will be issued. Terms—Cash on delivery.

GEO. P. LAMMERT, Auctioneer.



IMPRESS ON YOUR MIND

"PRIMO" BEER

there is a food value as well as beverage enjoyment, for three reasons:—

1.—Primo beer is beer that is always uniform in quality; never varies.

2.—It is a product of the most carefully selected and highest ingredients harmoniously used, the result of many years' experience.

3.—The hops have a nerve soothing value. The malt not only has food value, but is, of all foods, one of the most quickly and easily turned by digestion into nourishment.

Obtainable from all Wine Merchants.

H. RUTTONJEE & SON, 100, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

RUBBER SHARE REPORT.

PRICES BY MAIL From SINGAPORE Dated Feb. 14th, 1917.

Sterling Shares.

Nom. Value. Buyers. Sellers.

2/- Shares.

Allagar	2/3	2/9
Anglo-Java	4/-	5/-
Anglo-Malay	10/-	12/-
Batang Malaka	2/3	2/6
Bekoh	2/-	2/7 1/2
Bkt. Martajam	2/6	2/9
Bkt. Sembawang	2/6	2/9
Chartered (F.M.B.)	2/3	2/6
Chimpul	1/6	1/10
Cicely	17/6	20/-
Cicely Pref.	18/-	21/-
Consolidated	10/-	12/6
Heavwood	2/9	2/3
Kamuning Perak	2/3	2/6
Kota Tinggi	2/3	2/9
Labu (F.M.B.)	6/-	7/6
Linggi Ord.	18/-	20/-
London & R.	6/6	7/3
Merlimau	4/6	5/6
Padang Jawa	2/6	2/9
Pataling	30/-	35/-
Perak	5/-	6/6
Port Dickson	2/4	2/6
Selangor	22/6	25/-
S'pore Para	3/-	2/6
S'pore United	2/3	2/9
Str. Settlements (Bertram)	4/6	5/6
Sumatra Para	6/9	7/6
United Serdang		
Sumatra	11/6	12/-
United Sumatra	6/6	7/6
United Temiang	2/10	2/3
Vallambrosa	16/3	17/9

2/- Shares.

Batu Tiga	60/-	80/-
Bkt. Rajah	130/-	150/0
Castlefield	100/-	112/6
Damanasara	65/-	75/-
H'lands & L'lands	80/-	85/-
Kuala Lumpur	80/-	95/-
Landron	40/-	45/-
Langen (Java)	45/-	50/-
Ledbury	50/-	57/6
Lumut	27/6	45/-
Malesia R. P.		
Ord.	80/-	90/-
7 1/2 Pref.	70/-	80/-
Nordana	21/-	28/6
Permas	28/9	38/-
Pegoh	42/6	60/-
Rambis Ord.	28/-	30/-
Rambis Pref.	24/-	30/-
Rubber Plant		
Invest.	21/-	23/6
Sapong	25/-	30/-
Seaford	80/-	90/-
Seremban	17/6	20/-
Shelford	27/6	35/-
Sialang	60/-	70/-
S'gai Way	75/-	85/-
Tebrau (Johore)	60/-	70/-
United Sui Betong	50/-	60/-

Dollar Shares.

5/- Shares.

Aloer Gajah	3.70	3.90
Ayer Kuning	1.40	1.50
Ayer Molak	2.50	2.60
Balgownie	4.60	4.80
Bkt. Jelutong	.72 1/2	.82
Bkt. Katil	.82 1/2	.92
Glennale	2.10	2.30
Joram	2.05	2.15
Jimah	.85	1.05
Malaka Pinda	2.25	2.35
Mandai Takong	.30	.40
Pantai	1.35	1.50
Punggur	.80	.90
Tambalak	1.00	1.10
Ulu Pandan	.32 1/2	.35
United Malacca	1.15	1.25

5/- Shares.

Kempas	7.90	8.00
Malakoff	4.60	4.70
New Serendah	4.15	4.30
Sandycroft	4.90	5.05
S'gai Bagan	3.25	3.40
Trafalgar	1.80	1.90

35/- Shares.

Ayer Panas	11.50	12.00
Oh'kat Serdang	9.10	9.50
Haytor	10.00	10.05
Kalamak	6.25	6.45
Lunas	7.25	7.50
Moogai	4.90	5.10
Nyalas	6.40	6.60
Pajam	17.60	18.25
Radella	11.50	12.00
Waluk Anson	11.25	11.75

5/- Shares.

Bukit Timah	12.00	12.50
Indragiri	19.00	21.00
Pales Baling	8.40	9.00
Tapak	19.00	21.00

THE ALEXANDRA CAFE

Just arrived, Fresh imported American Cigars.

POST OFFICE.

IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The public are informed that the undesignated articles are prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom, either by letter post or by parcel post.

Gold manufactured or unmanufactured, including gold coin and articles consisting partly of or containing gold. All manufactures of silver other than silver watches and silver watch cases. Jewellery of any description.

Letters and Parcels containing such articles cannot therefore be accepted for transmission by the Post Office.

Particulars of outgoing and incoming mails will not be advertised in future. The Post Office will forward all correspondence posted by the fastest routes.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9.40 a.m.
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 2 p.m.
Shatin, Shatin and Sheung Shui.—Week days, 4 p.m.
Abchurch, Antau, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, San Tin and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.
Canton, Samshui and Wuchow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 5 p.m.; Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Macao.—Week days, 7.15 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturdays; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Namtau and Sammel.—Week days, 5 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Shanghai.—Week days, 10 a.m.; 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; 1.30 p.m.
Sundays, 8.30 a.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.
Canton.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 9.30 p.m.; 9.30 p.m.
Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.
Ping Tung.—Week days, 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 8.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Shek Ki.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Kumchuk.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Shanghai.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturdays; Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ARRIVED.

Police, Chi., s.s. Chollie, 13th Feb.—Tours, 9th Feb.—Chinese.
Anhui, Br., s.s. L320, Eddy, 14th Feb.—Minghai, 11th Feb., Gen.—D. & S.
Hanching, Br., s.s. L307, Fummo, 14th Feb.—Saratow, 13th Feb., Gen.—D. L. & Co.
Yuenang, Br., s.s. L323, Menny, 14th Feb.—Manda, 11th Feb., Gen.—J. M. & Co.

PASSENGERS EXPECTED.

Betcher R.G. Motta
Beard Madam Mola Mrs
Butler Mrs Motomura R
Cormac Mr & Mrs Mami S
Cradock Miss Morison H.A
Dillon Capt & Mrs Murphy Miss A.D
Eldridge Mrs S McAuliffe Miss
Evans Mrs F.C. MacDonald Mrs
Fraser Mrs H.W. Nakagawa K
Fujisawa K Nakano B
Goshiro Nishino B
Gauze Mrs M.S. Shiki
Giles Miss Summers Master A
Harrison Mrs Wilson Miss
Haseo E Yak Chen
Jensen You Tom
Kikawa Com K Zutsa

WEATHER REPORT.

On the 14th at 11.59—No returns from Japan or the Philippines. Pressure has decreased slightly along the east coast of China and moderately over S.W. China. The anticyclone has weakened. It is apparently moving eastward.

The monsoon will moderate over the China Sea. It is interrupted to the north of Amoy.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since January 1st, 0.62 inches, against an average of 2.34 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW

District	Forecast
1 Hongkong to Gap Book	N.E. to E. winds, strong to moderate; moderate; cloudy, some drizzle.
2 Formosa Channel	N.E. winds, strong.
3 South coast of China between H.K. and Lamook	The same as No. 1.
4 South coast of China between H.K. and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register.

February 14, a.m.

Station	Hour	Barometer	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Force	Weather
Ventock	6a						
Nemuro	6a						
Hakodate							
Yokohama							
Kobe							
Nagasaki							
Kagami							
Oshima							
Naha							
Ishijima							
Bonin Is.							
Chusan	6a	30.34	24	80	se	4 b	
Wharfedale							
Hankow							
Ichang							
Kiungang							
Chungking							
Shanghai		30.43	23	88	se	1 b	
Wusung		30.42	28	84	se	2 b	
Sharp P.		30.34	45	77	w	2 b	
Amoy	9a	30.29	48	63	n	2 b	
Swatow	6a						
Taihou	5a	30.23	50	77	e	4 b	
Taihu		30.25	41			0 b	
Tainan		30.23	45			n 2 b	
Kashan							
P'owen		30.24	55			6 b	
Chungking	6a	30.25	47	100	e	2 b	
H'kong		30.22	54	78	e	4 b	
Gap Book		30.21				ene 6 b	
Macao		30.19	55	79	ene	4 of	
Wuchow	9a						
Poulsen							
Holbow	7a	30.14	57	65	ene	4 o	
Touran		30.10	63			naw 2 o	
C. St. J.		29.91	68			ene 4 b	
Apurri	6						
Dagupan							
Manila							
Legaspi							
Tacloban							
Iloilo							
Sarago							
Laban		29.79	77	91	e	1 b	

METEOROLOGICAL.

Previous	Day	On date	On date
at 6 p.m.	at 6 a.m.	at 6 a.m.	at 6 p.m.
Barometer	30.29	30.27	30.22
Temperature	60	14	60
Humidity	49	78	65
Wind Direction	ESE	E	E
Force	3	4	3
Weather	b	b	o
Rain	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lightest spec. on Temperature on the	14th	14th	14th
Lowest	"	"	"
H.K. Observatory, February 14, 1917.			
T. F. CLAXTON, Director.			

ENTERTAINMENTS.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

THURSDAY, 15th FEBRUARY, 1917.

THE

"DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS."

FRIDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1917.

(in 3 parts)

13th & 14th Episodes

of the

"IRON CLAW."

Booking at ANDERSON'S.

All unpaid Booked Seats will be sold at the Commencement of Performances.

BIJOU THEATRE.

The Coolest Theatre in Hongkong.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!!

"A WIFE'S SACRIFICE."

(Drama in 5 Parts)

LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM."

And

Tweedledum as Strike Leader.

HONGKONG THEATRE.

(OLD LAND OFFICE BUILDING).

14th, 15th & 16th February.

Showing a thrilling & interesting Story:

"WHAT HAPPENED TO MARY."

1-6 Series.

And Keystone Comics.

SATURDAY, 17th FEBRUARY—See "Peg O' The Ring"

3rd & 4th Episodes